

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to recite and claim the benefit of earlier filed Application No. 09/469, 211, filed December 22, 1999, to which the present application claims priority, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.78. No new matter has been added.

Claims 7-37, 43-58 and 60-61 have been canceled without prejudice prior to the calculation of fees. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the canceled claims in related applications. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

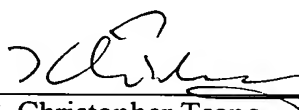
It is respectfully requested that the above amendment and remarks be entered into the file of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 9, 2003



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